

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 ACDA-05 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00

SAB-01 SAM-01 /097 W

----- 055293

R 161245Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4373

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6293

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF, UR

SUBJECT: SADAT'S MAY 14 STATEMENT IN KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 2074 (NOTAL)

1. IN MY MAY 15 MEETING WITH FONMIN TAQLA IN WHICH WE COVERED OTHER SUBJECTS, HE BROUGHT UP SADAT STATEMENT IN KUWAIT. TAQLA STRESSED IMPORTANCE HE ATTACHES TO STATEMENT POINTING OUT IT CONTAINED TWO POINTS IN PARTICULAR WHICH HE CONSIDERED MOST RPT MOST IMPORTANT.

(A) FIRST, SADAT STATED PUBLICLY THAT ISRAEL WITHIN ITS 1967 BORDERS IS AN ESTABLISHED FACT.

(B) SECOND, SADAT SAID HE WILLING TO HELP PALESTINIANS GET
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WHAT THEY WANT, BUT FIRST HE MUST KNOW WHAT IT IS THEY WANT.

ONLY THEY CAN DECIDE UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES AND MODALITIES
THEY WISH TO GO TO GENEVA AND WHAT THEY WANT TO ACHIEVE THERE.

2. TAQLA WAS NOT SURPRISED BY WHAT SADAT SAID FOR SADAT HAD
SAID SAME TO HIM PRIVATELY A FEW MONTHS AGO. WHAT IMPRESSED
HIM WAS THAT THESE IDEAS WERE NOW A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.
TAQLA BELIEVES THESE TWO UTTERANCES REPRESENT A "MAJOR THRESHOLD"
AND HE HOPED USG WOULD TAKE NOTE OF THEM. HE ALSO CITED THEM AS
ANOTHER INDICATION OF MODERATES' DIFFICULTY IN DEALING WITH
'ARAFAT AND CO.

3. SUBSIDIARY BUT IMPORTANT THIRD POINT, ACCORDING TO TAQLA,
WAS SADAT'S BLUNT STATEMENT THAT SOVS WANT MONEY OWED TO THEM
BY EGYPT AND WANT IT NOW, AND THAT HE (SADAT) GUESSED HE WOULD
HAVE TO ASK THE AMERICANS FOR IT. (SEEMS TAQLA WAS CONFUSING
SADAT'S REMARKS IN KUWAIT WITH THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM IN MAY 14
HAWADITH INTERVIEW CONTAINED FBIS JN 141730.) THIS TOO WAS
INTERESTING TAQLA THOUGH, IN VIEW OF HIS OWN INFO TO EFFECT THAT
MANY EGYPTIANS ARE "STARVING" AND THAT SADAT WILL NEED FINANCIAL
"MIRACLE" IN ORDER TO SURVIVE. I ASKED HIM IF HE CONSIDERED THIS
WAS SADAT'S WAY OF INDICATING TO OIL-RICH ARAB GOVTS THAT HE WOULD
WELCOME ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AID FROM THEM. TAQLA SAID SADAT IS
ANXIOUS PRIMARILY TO GET HIS HANDS ON MORE MONEY, BUT HE THOUGH IT
NOTEWORTHY THAT US HAD BEEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE SOURCE IN THIS
CONTEXT.

4. OUR CONVERSATION TRAILED OFF AT THIS POINT, WITH TAQLA RE-
EMPHASIZING HIS CUSTOMARY ADVICE THAT USG SHOULD REMAIN CENTRAL
IN THE ME PREACEMAKING PROCESS. HE ADDED THAT SADAT'S KUWAIT
STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT HE RECOGNIZES THIS VITAL FACTOR AND IS
INTENT ON COOPERATING WITH IT.

5. COMMENT: FOREGOING DOUBTLESS HAS ALREADY OCCURRED TO
DEPT AND EMBASSY CAIRO, BUT IS SUBMITTED AS EVALUATION OF
SADAT'S CURRENT PROBLEMS BY ONE OF LEBANON'S MORE PERCEPTIVE
AND SENSIBLE STATESMEN.
GODLEY

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